

CLAIMS

1. A method of operating a radio station in a broadcast network, said method comprising the steps of:

coupling a plurality of radio stations in said broadcast network;
detecting a fault condition in said radio station of said plurality of radio stations; and
communicating said fault condition to a control unit of said broadcast network.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of communicating said fault condition comprises a step of enabling said radio station to transmit said fault condition to said control unit by a plurality of methods.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of enabling said radio station transmitting said fault condition by a plurality of methods comprises transmitting said fault condition by a plurality of methods from a group consisting of:

sending an email;
sending a page;
calling a telephone number;
updating a web site; and
updating a database in said control unit.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising a step enabling said radio station to periodically check its operating conditions.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising a step of transmitting the status of said operating conditions to said control unit.

6. A method of operating a radio station in a broadcast network, said method comprising the steps of:

coupling a plurality of radio stations in said broadcast network;
enabling each said radio station of said plurality of radio stations to monitor its operating conditions;
detecting a fault condition based upon said operating conditions; and
communicating said fault condition to a control unit.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said step of detecting a fault condition comprises detecting a fault condition from a group consisting of:

AC Power Status fault
DC Voltage Status fault
Broadcast Monitor Status fault
HAR Mode Status fault
outdated Message Status fault

8. The method of claim 6 further comprising a step of tracking the configuration of said radio station by a time-based stamp.

9. The method of claim 6 further comprising a step of receiving a command from said control unit.

10. The method of claim 9 further comprising a step of providing a feedback signal indicating that said command was successfully executed by said radio station.

11. A method of operating a radio station in a broadcast network, said method comprising the steps of:

coupling a plurality of radio stations in said broadcast network;

receiving a command at a radio station of said plurality of radio stations;

and

detecting a transmission method for a command received by said radio station.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said step of detecting a transmission method comprises a step of determining whether DTMF tones or digital serial commands are transmitted.

13. The method of claim 12 further comprising a step of automatically adapting to the determined transmission method.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising a step of executing said command.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising a step of providing a feedback command that said command was successfully executed.

16. A system for broadcasting a radio signal, said system comprising:
a central control computer;
a plurality of radio stations coupled to said central control computer; and
a user notification message transmitted by a radio station to said central control computer, said user notification message indicating a fault condition.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein each radio station of said plurality of radio stations comprises a fault detection circuit.

18. The system of claim 16 wherein each radio station of said plurality of radio stations comprises a receiver for receiving control signals from said central control computer.

19. The system of claim 16 further comprising a feedback loop between each said radio station and said central control computer.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein each radio station of said plurality of radio stations comprises a transmitter for coupling a feedback signal by way of said feedback loop from said radio station to said central control computer, said feedback signal indicating that said command was successfully executed by said radio station.

21. A system for broadcasting a radio signal, said system comprising:
a central control computer generating a command;
a plurality of radio stations coupled to receive said command from said central control computer;

a feedback loop between each said radio station and said central control computer; and

a feedback signal coupled by way of said feedback loop from said radio station to said central control computer, said feedback signal indicating that said command was successfully executed by said radio station.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein each radio station of said plurality of radio stations comprises a fault detection circuit.

23. The system of claim 21 wherein each radio station of said plurality of radio stations comprises a receiver for receiving control signals from said central control computer.

24. The system of claim 21 further comprising a user notification signal generated by said radio station in response to the detection by said radio station of a fault.

25. The system of claim 24 wherein said user notification signal is transmitted by a method from a group consisting of:

sending an email;

sending a page;

calling a telephone number;

updating a web site; and

updating a database in said control unit.